

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF NURSING  
SPECIAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE  
October 8, 2008**

**TIME AND PLACE:** The meeting of the Special Conference Committee of the Board of Nursing was convened at 9:05 A.M., in Hearing Room 3, Department of Health Professions, 9960 Mayland Drive, Richmond, Virginia.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Judith E. Piersall, R.N., B.S.N., Chairperson  
Peregrin Francisco, R.N., M.S.A.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Ann Tiller, Compliance Manager

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Tammie Jones, Adjudication Specialist

**CONFERENCES  
SCHEDULED:** **Ruth Asamoah, C.N.A. 1401-108206**  
Ms. Asamoah did not appear.

**ACTION:** Ms. Francisco moved to close the case and impose no sanction due to insufficient evidence of a violation of the Nurse Practice Act or Board of Nursing regulations. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**CONFERENCES  
SCHEDULED:** **Rebecca Higgins, C.N.A. 1401-117749**  
Ms. Higgins did not appear.

**ACTION:** Ms. Francisco moved to offer Rebecca Higgins a consent order for indefinite suspension of her license until such time as she can appear before the Board and provide sufficient evidence that she is safe and competent to practice. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

This Consent Order shall be effective upon endorsement of its findings, conclusions, and terms of consent by both Ms. Higgins and the Board.

**CONFERENCES  
SCHEDULED:** **Annette Worley, C.N.A. 1401-016336**  
Ms. Worley did not appear.

**ACTION:** Ms. Francisco moved offer Annette Worley a consent order for indefinite suspension of her license until such time as she can appear before the Board and provide sufficient evidence that she is safe and competent to practice. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

This Consent Order shall be effective upon endorsement of its findings, conclusions, and terms of consent by both Ms. Worley and the Board.

CONFERENCES

SCHEDULED:

**Tonya Sandridge, C.N.A. 1401-067122**

Ms. Sandridge appeared, accompanied by her mother, Linda Norris.

CLOSED MEETING:

Ms. Francisco moved that the Special Conference Committee of the Board of Nursing convene a closed meeting pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(27) of the *Code of Virginia* at 10:10 A.M. for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter of Ms. Sandridge. Additionally, Ms. Francisco moved that Ms. Tiller and Ms. Jones attend the closed meeting because their presence in the closed meeting is deemed necessary, and their presence will aid the Committee in its deliberations.

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

RECONVENTION:

The Committee reconvened in open session at 10:32 A.M.

Ms. Francisco moved that the Special Conference Committee of the Board of Nursing certify that it heard, discussed or considered only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened.

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

ACTION:

Ms. Francisco moved to issue an order of reprimand to Tonya Sandridge.

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

As provided by law, this decision shall become a Final Order thirty days after service of such order on Ms. Sandridge unless a written request to the Board for a formal hearing on the allegations made against her is received from Ms. Sandridge within such time. If service of the order is made by mail, three additional days shall be added to that period. Upon such timely request for a formal hearing, the decision of this conference committee shall be vacated.

CONFERENCES

SCHEDULED:

**Sylvanus S. Musa, C.N.A. 1401-091570**

Mr. Musa did not appear.

ACTION:

Ms. Francisco moved to offer Sylvanus Musa a consent order for revocation of his certificate with a finding of abuse in lieu of a formal hearing.

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

This Consent Order shall be effective upon endorsement of its findings, conclusions, and terms of consent by both Mr. Musa and the Board.

CONFERENCES

SCHEDULED:

**Kathy Null, C.N.A. 1401-113411**

Ms. Null appeared, accompanied by Ashley Coble.

CLOSED MEETING:

Ms. Francisco moved that the Special Conference Committee of the Board of Nursing convene a closed meeting pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(27) of the *Code of Virginia* at 1:28 P.M. for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter of Ms. Null. Additionally, Ms. Francisco moved that Ms. Tiller and

Ms. Jones attend the closed meeting because their presence in the closed meeting is deemed necessary, and their presence will aid the Committee in its deliberations.

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

RECONVENTION:

The Committee reconvened in open session at 1:38 P.M.

Ms. Francisco moved that the Special Conference Committee of the Board of Nursing certify that it heard, discussed or considered only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened.

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

ACTION:

Ms. Francisco moved to close the case and impose no sanction due to insufficient evidence of a violation of the Nurse Practice Act or Board of Nursing regulations.

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

CONFERENCES  
SCHEDULED:

**Leota M. Vernon, C.N.A. 1401-022141**

Ms. Vernon appeared, accompanied by Rick Wyatt.

CLOSED MEETING:

Ms. Francisco moved that the Special Conference Committee of the Board of Nursing convene a closed meeting pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(27) of the *Code of Virginia* at 2:32 P.M. for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter of Ms. Vernon. Additionally, Ms. Francisco moved that Ms. Mitchell and Ms. Smith attend the closed meeting because their presence in the closed meeting is deemed necessary, and their presence will aid the Committee in its deliberations.

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

RECONVENTION:

The Committee reconvened in open session at 2:44 P.M.

Ms. Francisco moved that the Special Conference Committee of the Board of Nursing certify that it heard, discussed or considered only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened.

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

ACTION:

Ms. Francisco moved to issue an order of reprimand to Leota Vernon with a finding of abuse and neglect.

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

As provided by law, this decision shall become a Final Order thirty days after service of such order on Ms. Vernon unless a written request to the Board for a formal hearing on the allegations made against her is received from Ms. Vernon within such time. If service of the order is made by mail, three additional days shall be added to that period. Upon such timely request for a formal hearing, the decision of this conference committee shall be vacated.

CONFERENCES  
SCHEDULED:

**Sheila Roberts, C.N.A. 1401-070171**

Ms. Roberts appeared.

CLOSED MEETING:

Ms. Francisco moved that the Special Conference Committee of the Board of Nursing convene a closed meeting pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(27) of the *Code of Virginia* at 3:07 P.M. for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter of Ms. Roberts. Additionally, Ms. Francisco moved that Ms. Tiller and Ms. Jones attend the closed meeting because their presence in the closed meeting is deemed necessary, and their presence will aid the Committee in its deliberations.

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

RECONVENTION:

The Committee reconvened in open session at 3:14 P.M.

Ms. Francisco moved that the Special Conference Committee of the Board of Nursing certify that it heard, discussed or considered only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened.

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

ACTION:

Ms. Francisco moved to close the case and impose no sanction due to insufficient evidence of a violation of the Nurse Practice Act or Board of Nursing regulations. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

CONFERENCES  
SCHEDULED:

**Carolyn Horton, C.N.A. 1401-100018**

Ms. Horton appeared, accompanied by Talena Moon.

CLOSED MEETING:

Ms. Francisco moved that the Special Conference Committee of the Board of Nursing convene a closed meeting pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(27) of the *Code of Virginia* at 3:43 P.M. for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter of Ms. Horton. Additionally, Ms. Francisco moved that Ms. Tiller and Ms. Jones attend the closed meeting because their presence in the closed meeting is deemed necessary, and their presence will aid the Committee in its deliberations.

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

RECONVENTION:

The Committee reconvened in open session at 3:47 P.M.

Ms. Francisco moved that the Special Conference Committee of the Board of Nursing certify that it heard, discussed or considered only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened.

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

ACTION: Ms. Francisco moved to close the case and impose no sanction due to insufficient evidence of a violation of the Nurse Practice Act or Board of Nursing regulations. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

CONFERENCES  
SCHEDULED:

**Mercedes R. Fitzgerald, C.N.A. 1401-115462**  
Ms. Fitzgerald did not appear.

ACTION: Ms. Francisco moved to offer Mercedes Fitzgerald a consent order for indefinite suspension of her right to renew her certificate with a finding of abuse and neglect and until such time as she can appear before the Board and provide sufficient evidence that she is safe and competent to practice. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

This Consent Order shall be effective upon endorsement of its findings, conclusions, and terms of consent by both Ms. Fitzgerald and the Board.

ADJOURNMENT: The Board adjourned at 3:55 P.M.

---

Ann Tiller  
Compliance Manager